

IEPA Log No.: **C-0016-14**
CoE appl. #: **2015-610**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **August 31, 2016**
Public Notice Ending Date: **September 30, 2016**

Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
Amendments of 1972

Section 401 Water Quality Certification to Discharge into Waters of the State

Public Notice/Fact Sheet Issued By:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Division of Water Pollution Control
Permit Section
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
217/782-3362

Name and Address of Discharger: Madison County Highway Department, 7037 Marine Road,
Edwardsville, IL 62025

Discharge Location: Sections 14 and 15, T4N, R7W of the 3rd P.M. in Madison County near
Edwardsville.

Name of Receiving Water: Silver Creek and Unnamed Wetlands.

Project Description: Chamberlain Bridge (Pin Oak Road Bridge) over Silver Creek.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has received an application for a Section 401 water quality certification to discharge into the waters of the state associated with a Section 404 permit application received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Public Notice period will begin and end on the dates indicated in the heading of this Public Notice. The last day comments will be received will be on the Public Notice period ending date unless a commenter demonstrating the need for additional time requests an extension to this comment period and the request is granted by the IEPA. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the project to the IEPA at the above address. Commenters shall provide their names and addresses along with comments on the certification application. Commenters may include a request for public hearing. The certification and notice number(s) must appear on each comment page.

The attached Fact Sheet provides a description of the project and the antidegradation assessment.

The application, Public Notice/Fact Sheet, comments received, and other documents are available for inspection and may be copied at the IEPA at the address shown above between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday when scheduled by the interested person.

If written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in the certification application, the IEPA may, at its discretion, hold a public hearing. Public notice will be given 30 days before any public hearing. If a Section 401 water quality certification is issued, response to relevant comments will be provided at the time of the certification. For further information, please call Thaddeus Faught at 217/782-3362.

TJF:0016-14PN.docx

Fact Sheet for Antidegradation Assessment

Madison County Highway Department – Silver Creek and Unnamed Wetlands – Madison County

IEPA Log # C-0016-14

COE # 2015-610

Contact: Bob Mosher 217/558-2012

August 31, 2016

Madison County Highway Department proposes to replace the Pin Oak Road Bridge (aka Chamberlain Bridge) over Silver Creek. The existing bridge is dilapidated and has been closed for some time due to an unsafe deck. The existing approach to the bridge is considered substandard as it contains a curve. The new bridge will be built just east of the existing bridge in order to accommodate a straight approach.

A total of 1.06 acres of wetland impact will occur due to regrading and bridge placement. Forested wetland impact totals 0.65 acres and will be mitigated at a 3:1 ratio resulting in 1.95 acres. Emergent wetlands impact totals 0.41 acres and will be mitigated at a 1.5:1 ratio resulting in 0.62 acres. A forested wetland of 1.05 acres will be constructed just west of the new bridge by removing the old road bed and grading down to the elevation of the existing wetlands. The remainder of the mitigation will be accomplished at the Madison County Mitigation Bank. Approximately 120 linear feet of Silver Creek and an unnamed tributary will also be affected.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

According to the draft 2016 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List, Silver Creek (segment code OD-06) has been assessed by Illinois EPA and is listed as not supporting aquatic life use. The causes given are iron, dissolved oxygen, total phosphorus and sedimentation/siltation. Aesthetic Quality use is fully supported. This segment of Silver Creek is listed as a biologically significant stream in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*. It is also given an integrity rating of “B” in that document. Silver Creek at this location is not designated as an enhanced water pursuant to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard.

The forested wetlands affected at this site are characterized as hardwood bottomland forest. The dominant species are silver maple, cottonwood, box elder, green ash and sycamore. The emergent wetland is dominated by canary grass. Neither wetland type would be considered high quality.

Identification of Proposed Pollutant Load Increases or Potential Impacts on Uses.

The pollutant load increases that would occur from this project include some possible increases in total suspended solids. These increases, a normal and unavoidable result of the construction of bridge piers and placement of roadway fill, are not expected to impact designated uses. Best management practices (BMPs) will be used during construction. Forested wetlands filled will be mitigated by a 3:1 ratio and the emergent wetland at a 1.5:1 ratio. This results in 2.57 acres of mitigation. Soil and road materials from the existing bridge approach will be scraped away and used to build the new bridge approach. In its place, a 1.05 acre forested wetland will be created. The remainder of the mitigation of wetlands will occur at the Madison County wetland bank. The impacts to the streams will not require mitigation. Aquatic life will repopulate the recreated stream banks and establish new populations similar to those that now exist.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

The increase in suspended solids will be local and temporary. Erosion control measures will be utilized to minimize any increase in these disturbances and prevent further impacts to the wetlands and stream.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

The existing bridge is dilapidated and has been closed for some time. The local community will benefit from a safe, new bridge and the jobs that will be created for construction workers.

Assessments of Alternatives for Less Increase in Loading or Minimal Environmental Degradation.

Different bridge designs were considered. In the interest of safety, a design incorporating a straight approach was chosen. This design affects a slightly larger footprint of wetlands, but will serve the local community better.

Summary Comments of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Regional Planning Commissions, Zoning Boards or Other Entities

An Eco-CAT endangered species consultation was submitted to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources on August 17, 2016. No endangered species were identified from the project area and consultation was immediately terminated.

Agency Conclusion.

This preliminary assessment was conducted pursuant to the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulation for Antidegradation found at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.105 (antidegradation standard) and was based on the information available to the Agency at the time this assessment was written. We tentatively find that the proposed activity will result in the attainment of water quality standards; that all technically and economically reasonable measures to avoid or minimize the extent of the proposed increase in pollutant loading have been incorporated into the proposed activity; and that this activity will benefit the community at large by providing a new bridge to replace an unsafe bridge and by providing construction jobs. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.